

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2004

March 11, 2021

Mr. Michael Regan
Administrator
Environmental Protection Agency
Office of the Administrator, #1101A
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan:

We write to strongly recommend the appointment of former Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley to lead EPA's efforts on the Chesapeake Bay as a Special Assistant to the Administrator. His extensive knowledge of the Bay and its ecology coupled with his sensitivity to regional issues make him uniquely able to guide effective policy to advance the restoration of this critical resource.

As Maryland's chief executive, Governor O'Malley made Bay issues a priority and has a history of great success on this priority for our region and country. His collaborative leadership and focus on the Bay helped reverse a 300 year decline in the health of the Bay. The years from 2007-2017 remain the longest and only sustained period of improved Bay health in the modern history of objective record keeping.

Governor O'Malley accomplished this not only by building upon years of prior work and a whole body of scientific knowledge, but by bringing forward a new method of performance measurement in public administration. "BayStat" and its EPA progeny "ChesapeakeStat" measure the actions on land which produce sustained improvements to the waters of the Chesapeake Bay. Without a doubt, the creation and constant use of these common platforms made effective collaborations across six states happen at a scale at which they had never happened before.

His strong advocacy has continued as Governor O'Malley has written and been published on Bay Restoration (see Bay Chapter from [Smarter Government](#) attached, ESRI Press 2019). He has lectured on this topic at numerous universities in the United States including The University of Maryland, Harvard, Georgetown, Penn, Boston College Law School, and The Kelley School of Business at Indiana University. Further, the American success of BayStat has informed other cleanup efforts across the world from Guanabara Bay in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to the Great Barrier Reef of Queensland, Australia.

Our enthusiasm for Governor O'Malley's appointment to this position is also based on our personal knowledge of his talents in finding common ground among stakeholders and driving change. If we are to restore a trajectory of progress to the health of the Bay's waters, it will take collaboration based on science across the entire watershed.

Governor O'Malley will bring a credibility and stature to federal efforts on the Chesapeake Bay that few, if any, other candidates could bring to this great work. We believe he would make exceptional contributions in this position, and highly recommend him for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senator



Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator



Tim Kaine
United States Senator



Mark Warner
United States Senator